

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0071] The locking member 58 comprises a pair of legs 70 that are pivotally connected to each other at a flexible connection bridge or pivot connection 72. Each has a projecting tooth 74 that engaged a notch 66 on one edge of the channel or recess 62. The teeth ~~[[72]]~~ 74 and notches 66 are shaped so that when the heel portion around plate 54 is pushed toward the toe portion around plate 52, the locking member 50 clicks ever deeper into the recess 62 and the plate telescopically slide together. In each position, the teeth lock in place, however so that the heel portion cannot move away from the toe portion under the bias of spring 56. During this closing or shortening of the mechanism, the spring is compressed. This inward motion is continued until the shoe is firmly captured in the shoe cover.